



SENATOR ROBERT D. GARTON

serving district 41: bartholomew and johnson counties

200 W. Washington Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • www.in.gov/S41

Protecting Children of Indiana Still a Top Priority

All too often, I open my newspaper and read a story of another child being victimized or another repeat offender back on the street. These situations have become almost commonplace in the last few years. The last several legislative sessions have yielded bills that have helped curb these occurrences, and 2005 will be no exception.

In 2003, the state's sex and violent offender registry was modernized, including the requirement of a photograph of the offender that could be viewed by the public. Currently, thousands of people who have convicted sex crimes or crimes against children are registered with the state. Two bills that would enhance the effectiveness of the registry just passed the Senate.

Senate Bill 164, authored by Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield), adds possession of child pornography to the list of 12 offenses included on the list. This bill moved through the Senate unanimously.

"Child safety is a never-ending task, and the General Assembly must continue to be vigilant in seeking new ways to protect our children."

In addition to making the registry available to the public online, current law requires the registry to be distributed to schools, certain state agencies, and licensed child care facilities. Sen. Teresa Lubbers (R-Indianapolis) has authored SB 230, which would add Neighborhood Associations to the list of entities that can receive the semiannual update. This would make families more aware of sex offenders living in the neighborhood. That bill has also passed through the Senate without opposition.

The sex and violent offender database can be accessed through the following web site: www.indianasheriffs.com.

Governor Mitch Daniels has called for an overhaul of the Family and Social Services Administration, the state's largest and most expensive entity. The main change is included in Senate Bill 529, which would establish a Department of Child Services that would handle child support, child protection, adoption and foster services. That bill soon will receive a hearing in the Health and Provider Services Committee.

Child safety is a never-ending task, and the General Assembly must continue to be vigilant in seeking new ways to protect our children.

stay connected
to the
indiana general assembly



Visit the online home of the Indiana General Assembly at www.in.gov/legislative where you can track bills, listen to live action in the Senate, and learn more about Indiana laws.



Visit my legislative web site at www.in.gov/S41 and read news releases, track bills I have authored or sponsored, or contact me by e-mail.

upcoming events in the indiana senate

- February 24 - Last Day to File and Adopt Committee Reports
- February 28 - Last Day for Second Readings
- March 1 - Last Day for Third Readings

SENATE FACTS

key information about the indiana senate

Membership: 50

Elected by: Voters of each district

Term of Office: State senators are elected to four-year terms. These terms are staggered in such a way that half of the 50 seats are subject to election every two years.

Qualifications: U.S. citizen; resident of Indiana for at least two years before the election; resident of the district for one year prior to the election; at least 25 years of age.

Presiding Officer: It is the constitutional duty of the lieutenant governor to serve as president of the Senate.

Session Length: Session commences the Tuesday after the second Monday in January each year, unless a different day or place is appointed by law. In odd-numbered years, session must adjourn no later than April 29. In even-numbered years, session must adjourn no later than March 13.

Administration: The Legislative Council is composed of 16 legislators, eight from the House of Representatives and eight from the Senate. The chairman rotates annually between the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate. Council members set policy for interim activities, recommend rule changes, authorize studies and study committees, and review and supervise expenditures.

Salary: \$11,600 annually

SENATE DISTRICT 41

Adopted April 29, 2001
Effective November 5, 2002

This map is a visual representation of the district and is only for reference purposes. For a detailed description of this district, consult the Indiana Code.

